

# Chicago Daily Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER  
FOUNDED JUNE 16, 1847

## TWO SENATORS ASSIST BERLIN GIVEAWAY

In London, Sen. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate's foreign relations committee, said the west shares with Russia the blame for the present Berlin crisis.

In Washington, Sen. Edmund Muskie, the Maine Democrat, said the United States should consider the possibility of recognizing East Germany. This should be done, he said, without surrendering the possibility of a future reunification of Germany.

Sen. Fulbright's acceptance of a share of the blame makes sense only if he is referring to the monstrous folly of President Roosevelt in trusting Stalin. Churchill didn't want to give the Russians their stranglehold on Berlin, East Germany, and the rest of middle Europe; when the deal was made, France and the other countries of western Europe were in no position to resist it.

It hardly makes sense, then, to say that "the west" or even the United States as the leading nation of the west, shares the blame. Congress and the people were not informed of what was being discussed nor did they agree to it. President Roosevelt was his own secretary of state, for all practical purposes, and a worse one we never have had.

Beyond that, however, "the west" has no reason to reproach itself. We have asked nothing more than that the Russians recognize the principle of self-determination, a principle formally accepted by the Russians on many occasions, including the day they assented to the Atlantic Charter and the day they put their signature to the United Nations covenant. And it was not "the west" but the Russians who fomented the Berlin crisis, as President Kennedy belatedly pointed out in the U. N. address.

The objection to Sen. Fulbright's condemnation of his own country and his allies is not only that his assumptions are largely false, important as that is. More important is the consequence of loose talk such as his from a man holding his position of responsibility. He has invited the Russians to believe that their case is vastly better than it is; he has invited our allies to believe that the United States is anything but resolute, because it lacks faith in the justice of its cause; he has invited the American people themselves to doubt the good sense of their spokesmen.

Sen. Muskie's proposal that our government consider the possibility of an informal recognition of East Germany is equally indefensible. Mr. Muskie, like Mr. Fulbright, allows himself to believe that something is to be gained by giving your bargaining counters away before the bargaining begins. He allows himself to believe also, that, tho we cannot count upon Russian good faith in carrying out a bargain, we can place every confidence in the good will of Russia's puppet, the East German government.

What Mr. Muskie ought to be saying is that we can grant informal recognition whatever that is, only to an East German government possessed of enough independence to warrant recognition. We might risk it if we got something substantial in return, like the withdrawal of all Russian troops, leaving the East Germans free to choose their own government and shake off the Ulbricht dictatorship.

Instead of emphasizing what we require and putting up an argument for it, Mr. Muskie advances an argument for yielding without getting anything in return. He is only making President Kennedy's task harder and it is remarkable that if Mr. Kennedy intends to stand firm, he has uttered a word of criticism or complaint.

STATINTL